

“WE OUGHT TO”

⇒ **Text: Acts 10:1-6**

⇒ **Introduction:**

○ The angel who appeared to Cornelius told him that if he wanted further information as to the purpose of his call, he should send for Peter (v.6) who “**shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.**”

○ **Definition:** “**OUGHT**” = our duty, the rightness of something, the advisability of some action, our moral obligation.

- a) The problem with many people today is that they overlook their duty and moral obligation to God.

- Instead, they do whatever they feel like doing.

- b) Another problem is that many parents when they see their children going astray are too afraid to do what Peter did and “tell them what they ought to do.”

⇒ **I. Notice Some Things about Peter telling Cornelius what he ought to do.**

○ 1) The angel could not tell Cornelius the gospel, so he directed Cornelius to a man who would clearly tell him what he ought to do.

- **Lesson:**

- Angels know who the best soul winners are.

- They direct people to good soul winners.

○ 2) Peter was willing to tell people what they needed to hear even if they didn't like it. Peter was not afraid of what they thought about him.

- He was more concerned about what God thought of him.

- “We ought to obey God rather than men.” **Acts 5:29.**

- i) He told 3000 Jews on the Day of Pentecost what they ought to do in **Acts 2:14-40.**

- ii) He told the crowd gathered at the Beautiful Gate of the Temple what they ought to do after the lame man was healed in **Acts 3:12-26.**

- iii) He told Annas the High Priest & Caiaphas what they ought to do in **Acts 4:5-12,19-20.**

- iv) He told Ananias and Sapphira what they ought to do in **Acts 5:1-10.**

- v) He told the Sanhedrin what they ought to do in **Acts 5:29-33.**

○ **Lesson:**

- We need to get into the habit of telling people what they ought to do to please God.

- Don't be afraid, but speak the truth in love, especially parents must tell their children what they ought to do.

⇒ **II. What Other Things Ought We To Do?**

○ **1) Men ought always to pray and not to faint. (Luke 18:1).**

- We must always maintain a spirit of prayer.

- We must always be in a proper frame of mind to pray to God for things needful.

- Though our prayers go long unanswered, we should persevere and not grow weary in praying to God.

○ **2) “We ought to obey God rather than men.” (Acts 5:29).**

- We should not seek to please men but to please God.

- The Apostle Paul said, “**If I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.**” Galatians 1:10.
- The trouble is that this world is seeking to please the wrong crowd, such as the bad peer group, their own lustful pleasures, and their children, rather than pleasing God.
- Do you seek to please God or men?
- **3) “...so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35).**
 - We should go to work to earn money so we can provide for the needs of sick, feeble and suffering Christians, who are unable to work for themselves, such as Christians in Africa.
 - **Lesson:**
 - Many Christians work only to accumulate a lot of wealth for themselves, but we ought to work to bless and help others who can't work
 - **See Romans 15:1**
- **4) “Pray that I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.” (Ephesians 6:20).**
 - Boldly = openly, plainly, and without fear.
 - Paul felt that the gospel ought always to be spoken plainly, without fear of men.
 - Learn to speak the gospel boldly because it is our duty to speak it.
- **5) “...as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God.” (I Thessalonians 4:1).**
 - Ye should abstain from fornication. (I Thess. 4:3).
 - Ye study to be quiet and do your own business and work with your own hands. (I Thess.4:11).
 - Ye may walk honestly toward them that are without.” (I Thess. 4:12)
 - Ephesians 4, 5 and 6 show us how we ought to walk worthy of Christ, and how we should live.
 - Life is often represented as a journey.
 - (Romans 6:4 “we should walk in newness of life”).
- **6) “For yourselves know how ye ought to follow us”. (2 Thessalonians 3:7).**
 - We should follow the apostles example of love, self sacrifice, soul-winning, and hard work for Christ and others.
- **7) “We ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.” (Hebrews 2:1).**
 - More earnest heed = more strict attention.
 - To the things we've heard = from the apostles, or from Godly Bible preaching.
 - Lest at any time we should let them slip = never forget them, never be indifferent to them.
 - Cares of this world, dullness of mind or a cold heart may render us indifferent to them.
 - These key Bible truths which we used to hold dearly can pass out of our minds without concern.
 - Paul says that this ought never to be done.
 - These truths should always be important to us.

- **8) “For when for the time ye ought to be teachers.” (Hebrews 5:12).**
 - Believers ought to be able to teach others the gospel, basic Christian truths, Christ’s Second Coming and to refute false doctrines.
 - We should be able to teach children, friends, new converts and disciples.
- **9) Ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. (James 4:15).**
- **10) We ought to lay down our lives for the brethren. (I John 3:16).**
- **11) We ought to love one another. (I John 4:11).**
- **12) We must know how we ought to behave ourselves in the house of God. (I Timothy 3:15).**
- This means that we should:
 - a) Come to church on or before time.
 - Don’t be late.
 - b) Listen carefully to the preaching.
 - Take notes in a notebook so you can teach it to others.
 - c) Sing heartily to the Lord. (Ephesians 5:19).
 - d) Don’t disturb others by talking, but behave properly in God’s house.
 - e) Give to further God’s work.
 - f) Don’t rush away afterwards, but stay for a while to encourage others (Hebrews 10:24,25).
 - g) Notice and befriend newcomers, sit next to them, introduce them to others who might become good friends with them, ask them if they are 100% sure of going to heaven and if not then lead them to Christ.
 - Invite newcomers to lunch after church, become their friend, ask them if you can have a Bible Study with them that week, and invite them to come soul winning.
 - Pray before the service that God will bless the meeting and teach you something needful in the message.
 - Pray that God will build the church and that He will use you to bless others.
 - Be thankful to God and others, and not critical.
 - “Enter His gates with thanksgiving and into his courts with praise.” Psalm 100:4.

⇒ **Conclusion:**

- We have looked at this morning some things that as born again children of God **“we ought to do.”**
- In other words, things we have a duty to do.
- The question is are you doing them?
- If not, why not.
- Ask the Lord today to help you to do the things that you ought to do.